

# **Legislative Reference Service**

**WEEK ENDING 2/18/00**

**SENATE BILLS ONLY NO. 3**

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

**S-2311 SATELLITE TELEVISION SYSTEM** (Oster) This act would consider satellite television installation an ordinary repair exempt from the necessity of a building permit. Corporations

**S-2555 AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY** (Parella & Bates) This act would regulate the safety of the public amusement rides. Corporations

**S-2755 LEAD POISONING** (Izzo & Connors) This act would allow the Department of Attorney General to utilize the Abandoned Property Act's remedies of injunctive relief and appointment of receivers in laws involving the Rhode Island Housing and Maintenance occupancy code and the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act. Judiciary

**S-2782 LEAD PAINT ABATEMENT** (Montalbano) This act would permit property owners of homes built prior to 1978 to install replacement windows without the necessity of any building permits. H.E.W.

## **EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS**

**S-2262 TRUANCY INVESTMENT FUND** (Igliozzi & Others) This act would establish an elementary and secondary education truancy investment

fund in order to enable school districts to improve attendance rates.  
Finance

**S-2271 SINGLE PARENT INVESTMENT FUND** (Igliazzi & Others) This act would provide students from single family homes with additional educational services. Finance

**S-2292 RESIDENCY – PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES** (Gallo & Izzo) This act would preclude municipalities from having residency requirements for any and all employees of our public schools in that city/town.  
Corporations

**S-2293 SCHOOL MILK** (Gallo & Izzo) This act would provide that funds received from the Northeast Dairy Compact Commission shall be passed through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to reimburse school districts for school milk. Finance

**S-2294 STANDARDIZED TESTING** (Gallo) This act would amend the provisions regarding the use of standardized tests in certification of teachers. H.E.W.

**S-2296 TEACHER ASSISTANTS** (Gallo & Others) This act would require teacher assistants to be certified if they substitute more than 20 times during the school year. H.E.W.

**S-2298 STUDENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS** (Cicilline & Others) This act prohibits public educational institutions from assigning a student an identification number which incorporates the students social security number, and prohibits the display of 4 or more consecutive numbers of a social security number on any publically accessible document. H.E.W.

**S-2308 HOME SCHOOLING** (Oster) This act would provide that home school teachers must be Rhode Island certified and also, upon completion of home school instruction, the diploma shall state 'Home Schooling'. H.E.W.

**S-2315 TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS** (Oster) This act would require all public school districts to transport school children to and from child care facilities located within that school district's boundaries.  
H.E.W.

**S-2387      BREAKFAST PROGRAM** (Cicilline & Others) This act would require public schools that make available free and reduced price type A lunches pursuant to Section 16-8-10 of the General Laws to also make available a breakfast program. Finance

**S-2534      HEARING, SPEECH, AND VISION SCREENINGS** (Gibbs & Others) This act updates the statute and references screenings in place of examinations for hearing, speech and vision. The directors of health and education would promulgate the proposed intervals for hearing testing. H.E.W.

**S-2542      BOARD OF REGENTS EXAMINATION** (Cicilline & Others) This act would require the establishment of a Board of Regents Examination, which passage would be a requirement for a high school diploma in the State of Rhode Island. H.E.W.

**S-2544      RESIDENCE OF CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES** (Cicilline & Others) This act would provide that the school district in a city/town, in which a residential facility that does not include educational services is located, would be responsible for the public education of any child residing in such a facility and would receive additional state aid for the education of children in such facilities. Finance

**S-2546      FAIR HOUSING PRACTICES** (Parella & Others) This act amends the Fair Housing Practices Act to provide that the Commission for Human Rights and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will jointly develop a program to teach students and other state residents about the provisions of the fair housing law and the harmful effects of prejudice and discrimination. H.E.W.

**S-2572      EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL COMPETENCY LEARNING** (Cicilline & Perry) This act would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education encourage the establishment of emotional and social competency learning programs in local school districts. H.E.W.

**S-2614      SCHOOL AND MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUND SAFETY** (Blais & Others) This act provides grants to cities and towns for projects undertaken specifically to comply with the Department of Education's and the Department of Health's joint health and environment recreational facility

safety regulations and/or to provide access for people with disabilities.  
Finance

**S-2656 STOPPING FOR SCHOOL BUSES** (Paiva Weed & Others) This act would permit a peace officer to issue a summons for failing to stop for a school bus, without the necessity of a hearing. Judiciary

**S-2663 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL INVESTMENT FUND** (Walsh & Others) This act would create an alternative school investment fund to help support school based programs for students prone to suspension. Finance

**S-2726 TEXTBOOKS** (Goodwin – By Request) This act would expand the textbook list published by the commissioner which the school committee of every community utilizes in furnishing textbooks, upon request, to elementary or secondary pupils, subject to the prescribed rules and regulations. H.E.W.

**S-2746 CLOSING OF SCHOOLS – ELECTIONS** (Irons & Coderre) This act provides that any school building or premises, which is utilized by a city/town as a polling place for any primary election or other elective meeting, shall be open only for polling and voting purposes and no session of school shall be held in said building or premises on such a day. Judiciary

**S-2757 TEACHER CERTIFICATION** (Coderre) This act would create a Certification Standards Board for public school teachers, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. H.E.W.

## **ELECTIONS**

**S-2269 BALLOTS FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED VOTERS** (Igliazzi & Others) This act would make Braille and tactile ballots available for visually impaired voters who file a written request at least 30 days before an election. Judiciary

**S-2347 LISTING OF CANDIDATES ON BALLOTS** (Revens) This act removes the distinction between endorsed and unendorsed candidates for office on the election ballot. Judiciary

**S-2654 CHANGE OF DESIGNATION** (Sasso) This act would eliminate the 90 day waiting period required for disaffiliation with a political party. Judiciary

**S-2791 LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES** (Enos – By Request) This act provides that no person who is an officer or full-time employee of the state or of the authority's city/town shall be appointed to a local canvassing authority. Judiciary

### **ENVIRONMENT**

**S-2607 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE FUND** (Irons & Tocco) This act makes funds available for training state and local personnel in environmental hazard control. Finance

**S-2655 PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND** (Sasso) This act would limit the state or any municipality from building on prime agricultural land, and requires the state or municipality to replace prime agricultural land to the fullest extent as is reasonably possible. Finance

**S-2715 FRESHWATER WETLANDS** (Irons & Kelly) This act would substantially amend the general laws relating to the regulation of freshwater wetlands and related areas. Judiciary

### **FINANCE AND TAXATION**

**S-2251 TAX EXEMPTION FOR ELDERLY** (Izzo & Others) This act would extend the filing deadline to April 15 of the tax year. Corporations

**S-2252 PAYMENT IN LIEU** (Igliazzi & Others) This act would include any state-owned convention centers or municipally-owned civic center in the section providing for general assembly appropriations in lieu of property tax. Finance

**S-2260 EXCISE TAX PHASE-OUT** (Igliazzi & Others) This act would accelerate the phase-out of the motor vehicle excise tax to the year 2004. Finance

**S-2264      PROPERTY EXEMPT – POLICE & FIRE SERVICE** (Igliazzi & Others) This act would require certain tax exempt institutions to pay for their share of fire and police services. Finance

**S-2273      BUDGET SURPLUS** (Igliazzi & Others) This act provides that 15% of any budget surplus be distributed to cities and towns in the next fiscal year. Finance

**S-2274      WHOLESALERS' AND RETAILERS' INVENTORY** (Igliazzi & Others) This act would exempt from taxation the valuation of stock in trade or inventory of both wholesalers and retailers, said exemption to take place in fiscal year 2001-2002. This act would also provide for a yearly 33% reduction in the percentage of the inventory which may be subject to the inventory tax commencing during the fiscal years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. Finance

**S-2277      STATE AID TO LIBRARIES** (Igliazzi & Others) This act would provide \$5,000,000 in one-time funding to public libraries for library programs, asset protection or repairs. Finance

**S-2278      TARGETED SCHOOL AID** (Igliazzi & Others) This act would remove the requirement that school districts have a free and reduced lunch count in grades K-3 greater than 40% in order to receive targeted school aid. Finance

**S-2300      PROPERTY EXEMPT** (Cicilline & Paiva Weed) This act would require city and town councils to authorize exemptions from taxation for certain nontaxable entities within the city/town. Corporations

**S-2301      TIME-SHARE ESTATES** (Paiva Weed & Cicilline) This act would provide that the managing entity responsible for operating and maintaining fee time-share real property shall be considered the taxpayer as an agent of the time-share period titleholder. Finance

**S-2379      PAYMENT IN LIEU – AIRPORTS** (Walaska & Others) This act provides for an alternative computation for state education aid funding and adds any airport serving over 1,000,000 passengers a year to the General Assembly appropriations in lieu of property tax program. Finance

**S-2381 HOTEL TAX** (McCaffrey & Others) This act would divide the hotel tax in equal portions between the state and the municipality in which the hotel is located. Finance

**S-2383 EXCISE TAX PHASE OUT** (Iglioizzi & Others) This act would accelerate the implementation of the motor vehicle elimination tax by one year beginning in 2002. Finance

**S-2391 SPECIAL EDUCATION** (McDonald & Others) This act would require the state to assume the costs to the cities and towns for special education, starting with 10% of those costs the first year and 100% after 10 years. Finance

**S-2406 LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS** (Revens & Others) This act would require tenants of quasi-public corporations, which are businesses for profit, to be liable for taxes on any leasehold improvements. Finance

**S-2407 HOME HEATING OIL** (McDonald & Others) This act would exempt from taxation inventories of #2 home heating oil. Finance

**S-2408 CONTINUATION OF TAX RATE** (Revens & Others) This act would provide that when a quasi-public corporation acquires real property, the corporation would continue to pay taxes at the same rate as the former owner. Finance

**S-2429 TAX SALES** (Montalbano & Others) This act would amend certain provisions of the law relating to tax sales including the taxing entities entitled to a lien and the manner of notice of tax sales. Judiciary

**S-2491 PAYMENT IN LIEU** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would add any municipally-owned civic center to the list of properties eligible for state aid because of a loss of tax revenue. Finance

**S-2492 NURSING HOME EXEMPTION** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would exempt all nursing homes in the state from property taxes. Finance

**S-2493 PAYMENT IN LIEU** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would increase the annual appropriation for payment to cities and towns in which private non-profit or state-owned property is located from 27% to 30%. Finance

**S-2494 PAYMENT IN LIEU – CIVIC CENTERS** (Ruggerio & Others)

This act provides a payment by the state in lieu of taxes for any state or municipally-owned convention center or civic center. Finance

**S-2646 URBAN INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT** (Perry & Others) This act

would create the Urban Investment Tax Credit Act of 2000. Finance

**S-2647 URBAN INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT** (Perry & Others) This act

would create the Urban Investment Tax Credit Act of 2000. Finance

**S-2672 REVENUE BONDS** (Iglizzi & Others) This act would provide

that in calculating the limitations of revenue bonds, there shall not be included in the calculation 50% of the outstanding principal amount of any bonds issued for projects for which the authority or the municipality receives school housing aid. Finance

**S-2680 PAYMENT IN LIEU** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would

gradually increase the percent of the state appropriations in lieu of taxes, starting with 35% on July 1, 2001, and finally reaching 50% as of July 1, 2003. Finance

**S-2681 PAYMENT IN LIEU – CIVIC CENTERS** (Ruggerio & Others)

This act would include a municipally-owned civic center as qualifying for a general assembly appropriation in lieu of a property tax. Finance

**S-2686 PENSION FUND REFINANCING BONDS** (Ruggerio & Others)

This act allows municipalities to issue pension fund refinancing bonds to fund unfunded pension liability. Finance

**S-2773 FISCAL NOTES** (Badeau) This act would require a fiscal note

to reflect the additional cost to the state, cities, towns and subscribers to health insurance arising from legislation mandating health insurance coverage. Finance

## **LABOR RELATIONS**

**S-2314 FIREFIGHTERS' ARBITRATION** (Gallo & Others) This act

would require that the rights or benefits conferred on employees by an



expiring collective bargaining agreement would continue until a new agreement is ratified. Labor

**S-2399 SCHOOL TEACHER DISPUTES** (Izzo & Others) This act would require the bargaining agent for teachers, non-teacher school district employees and a school committee to submit their last best offer as to salary to a mediator. Labor

**S-2518 OPEN MEETINGS** (Roberts & Gallo) This act would provide that collective bargaining negotiations would not be subject to the open meetings law. Judiciary

**S-2581 LABOR CONTROVERSIES** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would stipulate that an erroneous interpretation or misapplication of the law by an arbitrator not be subject to judicial review, and further provides that an award by an arbitrator be vacated as to public policy if the public policy is defined in the Rhode Island Constitution and/or the Rhode Island General Laws. Labor

**S-2594 LABOR CONTROVERSIES** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would decrease the time period within which notice of a motion to vacate, modify or correct an award must be served upon an adverse party, or his attorney after the award is filed or delivered. Labor

**S-2595 ARBITRATOR'S AWARD** (Ruggerio & Others) This act adds the provision that, when a motion to stay an arbitrator's award is denied, the moving party shall pay costs and reasonable attorneys' fees to the prevailing party. Labor

**S-2719 FIREFIGHTERS' ARBITRATION** (Goodwin & Others) This act would expand the definition of "firefighter" for purposes of the Firefighters' Arbitration Act. Labor

### **LIQUOR CONTROL AND LICENSES**

**S-2243 SUNDAY SALES** (Roney & Others) This act would allow Class A liquor license holders to open on Sundays beginning after Thanksgiving to the Sunday before New Year's day. Special Legislation

## **PLANNING AND ZONING**

**S-2304 ZONING ORDINANCES – PERMITTED USES** (Oster) This act would bring Rhode Island into compliance with FCC Administrative Action PRB-1 which prohibits zoning regulations limiting tower and antenna height, which would have the effect of making the effective transmission of radio signals impossible. Corporations

**S-2477 SUBDIVISION OF LAND** (Irons & Others) This act would require supporting evidence of scientific and technical findings in the subdivision of land. Judiciary

**S-2604 ZONING ORDINANCES** (Oster) This act would amend the definition of “Family Day Care Home” and provide a definition for “Family Group Day Care Home” as they pertain to municipal zoning ordinances. Corporations

**S-2745 COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND LAND USE** (Irons & Bates – By Request) This act would permit a municipality to impose limitations on the number of building permits or land use approvals issued, provided such limitations are part of the municipality’s comprehensive plan and are based on a reasonable and rational assessment of the municipality’s sustainable capacity for growth. Corporations

**S-2797 ZONING – PERMITTED USES** (Enos & Coderre) This act would allow pharmacies to have a drive-thru window for prescription fulfillment. Any such drive-thru window and related structure will need to comply with the dimensional and safety requirements of the municipality in which they are located. Corporations

## **PUBLIC SAFETY (POLICE AND FIRE)**

**S-2279 SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRATION** (Celona & Others) This act would amend Megan’s Law in requiring offenders to register with police departments within 24 hours of relocation. This act would also place time limits upon the notification and classification process. Judiciary

**S-2295 RELIEF OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS** (Gallo & Others) This act would provide for a payment of a one-time \$100,000 benefit to the family of a firefighter, police officer, correctional officer and certain other persons who are killed or die from injuries sustained in the line of duty. Finance

**S-2302 LAW ENFORCEMENT CANDIDATES** (Cicilline & Others) This act would require peace officers and employees of private security businesses to take standardized psychological tests prior to being appointed state law enforcement officers. H.E.W.

**S-2321 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION** (Walsh & Damiani) This act would allow persons who have obtained protective orders to obtain concealed weapons permits. Judiciary

**S-2322 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION** (Walsh & Damiani) This act would exempt certain persons including those issued protective orders pursuant to Chapters 15-15 and 8-8.1 from the weapons safety requirements contained in Chapter 11-47. Judiciary

**S-2361 PAYMENT OF TAXES AND FEES BY CREDIT CARD** (Patterson) This act would authorize payment by credit card of taxes or fees owed to state or local governments. Finance

**S-2365 F.O.P. PLATES** (Celona & Others) This act would authorize the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to issue special plates to active and retired full-time police and law enforcement officers who are members of the state Fraternal Order of Police. Special Legislation

**S-2411 NFPA 1500** (Gallo & Others) This act would impose a fine for failure to comply with the requirement that fire departments implement NFPA 1500. Corporations

**S-2413 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** (Patterson & Others) This act would provide technical revisions to the laws pertaining to disaster response and emergency management. H.E.W.

**S-2423 DEPARTMENT OF MHRH** (McCaffrey & Others) This act would require the Director of the Department of Mental Health to notify local police

and state police of the discharge of clients held at the Slater Hospital Adult Psychiatric Unit who were held for certain specified crimes. Judiciary

**S-2426      ASSAULTS** (McCaffrey & Others) This act would add harbor masters or their assistants under the definition of “other officials”, declaring that an assault on such persons would constitute a felony. Judiciary

**S-2460      MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES** (Kelly) This act would prohibit any individual charged with violating this section from being convicted as long as said individual presents proof in court or to the office of the arresting officer proof of financial security which was valid at the time of the arrest. Judiciary

**S-2463      FIRE APPARATUS** (Tocco) This act would exempt fire apparatus from the provisions of the chapter governing size, weight and load limitations. Corporations

**S-2475      WEAPONS** (Damiani & Others) This act would provide that the Department of Attorney General shall issue a gun license or permit to a retired police officer, within 10 business days of application, upon a showing that the retired officer is in good standing. Judiciary

**S-2480      CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK** (McDonald & Others) This act would allow police departments to charge applicants for certification as child care workers for the required criminal record check. H.E.W.

**S-2485      EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION** (Iglioizzi & Others) This act provides additional immunity from liability for firefighters, paramedics and emergency medical technicians. Judiciary

**S-2574      DEFIBRILLATORS** (Kelly) This act would require the state to provide funds to the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy to purchase and distribute 50 defibrillators to cities and towns across this state to be used by the police force. Finance

**S-2585      LAW ENFORCEMENT CANDIDATES** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would mandate that special or reserve police officer candidates take psychological aptitude tests. Judiciary

**S-2586 RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would permit cities and towns to create reserve police forces. Judiciary

**S-2589 SUBCONTRACTING OF FIRE, POLICE AND RESCUE SERVICES** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would require that private agreements between municipalities and private employers to provide personnel to perform fire, police or rescue services contain a stipulation requiring prescribed rates of wages as determined by the Director of the Department of Labor. Labor

**S-2598 CONSOLIDATION OF POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would prohibit cities and towns from consolidating their respective police and fire departments. Labor

**S-2613 THERMAL IMAGING DEVICES** (Blais) This act would establish a fire safety equipment acquisition fund for the acquisition of thermal imaging devices. Corporations

**S-2628 OPERATION OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES** (Celona & Others) This act would include returning from the emergency situation as part of the operation of emergency vehicles which exempts the operator from insurance rate hikes in the event of an accident. Corporations

**S-2643 SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRATION** (Roney & Others) This act would require juvenile sex offenders to annually register with the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the city/town in which the juvenile having the duty to register resides, for 15 years subsequent to the date of release from confinement, and to verify his/her address on a quarterly basis for the 15 years. Judiciary

**S-2704 SEX OFFENDER CENTRAL REGISTRY** (Damiani & Others) This act would establish a Central Registry of Sex Offenders and provide internet access to the registry. Judiciary

**S-2728 PRIVATE AMBULANCE COMPANIES** (Raptakis & Tocco) This act would require private ambulance companies to only use flashers and sirens when transporting emergency patients. Highway Safety

**S-2735 RELIEF OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

(Connors & Others) This act would delete the statutory definition of “totally and permanently disabled”. Finance

**S-2806 RIGHT-OF-WAY OF FIRE COMPANIES** (Fogarty & Others)

This act would extend the right-of-way of fire companies to returning from a fire and responding or returning from an emergency call. Highway Safety

**RETIREMENT**

**S-2376 POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT** (Blais) This act would raise the amount of part-time gross pay retired professors and teachers may earn from employment by a state college or the Department of Education from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Finance

**S-2397 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES** (Lenihan & Roney) This act would remove the Employees Retirement System of Rhode Island from the list of agencies exempted from the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act. Judiciary

**S-2409 TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT** (Gallo & Ruggerio) This act would exempt new school superintendents from mandatory membership in the State Retirement System. Finance

**S-2515 VESTING – NUMBER OF YEARS** (Graziano & Others) This act would reduce the time in which a contributor into the State Retirement System would vest from 10 years to 5 years. Finance

**S-2561 RETIREMENT OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES** (Cicilline and Paiva Weed) This act would allow current employees who are participants in the Rhode Island Municipal Employees’ Pension Plan to remain in the retirement system, even if their job becomes privatized. Finance

**S-2582 OPTIONAL RETIREMENT - POLICE AND FIRE** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would amend the formula for determining a police officer’s or firefighter’s final compensation for retirement purposes. Judiciary

**S-2587 OTHER RETIREMENT SYSTEMS** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would allow an employee who is a member of the State Retirement System to also be a member of any union Retirement System while remaining eligible to receive State Retirement benefits. Finance

**S-2590 TEACHERS' RETIREMENT** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would extend the period of time that a retired teacher may act as a substitute teacher to 100 days in a school year. Finance

**S-2685 PENSION REVOCATION AND REDUCTION ACT** (Goodwin & Others) This act would correct various citation errors throughout this section and would add city/town retirements to the sections application. Judiciary

**S-2753 RETIRED EMPLOYEES** (Coderre & Others) This act would allow retired employees to choose from all health care plans offered to active state employees. Finance

**S-2754 TEACHERS' RETIREMENT** (Coderre & Others) This act alters member contributions to the State Retirement System. Finance

### **TOWN AND CITY CLERKS**

**S-2246 PROBATE COURTS – TEMPORARY CUSTODIANS** (Roney & Others) This act would give temporary custodians charge and care over real property of a decedent, as well as personal property. Judiciary

**S-2247 GUARDIAN AD LITEM** (Roney & Others) This act would eliminate the requirement that a probate court appoint a guardian ad litem in all instances when an interested person requests such an appointment, leaving such appointments to the discretion of the probate court. Judiciary

**S-2309 PROBATE JUDGES** (Oster) This act would provide that probate judges would not be required to state on the record a reason for recusing themselves from hearing a case. Judiciary

**S-2310 PROBATE PRACTICE – CLAIMS** (Oster) This act would allow an estate representative to partially deny a claim filed against the estate. Judiciary

**S-2372 CHILD SUPPORT LIENS** (Algieri & Others) This act would bring state law into compliance with federal mandates regarding wage withholding and work requirements, increase the effectiveness of the child support program by eliminating recording fees for liens, and enable the state to secure a permanent child support order within a protective order for victims of domestic violence who are on assistance. Judiciary

**S-2380 SAME SEX MARRIAGE** (Perry & Others) This act would authorize same sex marriages. Judiciary

**S-2472 SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES** (McBurney) This act would clarify that all judges, clerks, court administrators, and magistrates shall be empowered to perform marriage ceremonies. It would further take the power away from former administrators and clerks while still allowing former judges to perform the ceremonies. Judiciary

**S-2532 VITAL RECORDS** (Blais) This act would allow for electronic signatures and other changes to the statewide vital statistics system which will be necessary in order to implement an electronic system for registration of births, deaths, marriages and fetal deaths, and for automated issuance of certified copies. Corporations

**S-2642 OPEN MEETINGS** (McDonald & Oster) This act would repeal the existing Open Meetings law and enact a new Open Meetings law. Judiciary

**S-2650 PUBLIC RECORDS** (Paiva Weed & Others) This act would clarify which governmental records are public or confidential. Judiciary

**S-2793 FISHING GEAR TAGS** (McDonald) This act authorizes the director to issue fishing gear tags and collect fees. Judiciary



## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- S-2215 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COUNCIL** (Lenihan) This act would create an Intergovernmental Relations Council for the purpose of providing a forum to discuss intergovernmental issues between federal, state, and local government and the private sector. Judiciary
- S-2225 PAY EQUITY ACT** (Graziano & Others) This act would establish the Rhode Island State Government Pay Equity Act to establish equitable compensation relationships between males and females in state and local government. Finance
- S-2338 PARK AND RIDE LOTS** (Blais) This act would allow only passenger vehicles to temporarily park in designated park and ride lots and would prohibit certain vehicles from parking or storing property in park and ride lots. Judiciary
- S-2374 ACQUISITION OF LAND** (Sasso & Others) This act would provide for compensation to municipalities and fire districts for lost revenues when the state acquires land, real estate or other property within that municipality. Finance
- S-2431 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS** (Perry & Others) This act would provide immunity to veterinarians who report animal neglect, abuse or abandonment, and also provides immunity to veterinarians who provide emergency treatment. Judiciary
- S-2537 HIGHWAYS** (Felag & Others) This act would require the state to match local contributions for any sidewalk repairing on state roads. Finance
- S-2550 PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS** (Roney & Roberts) This act would provide a list of considerations to the Public Utilities Commission to use when determining whether a utility should be required to cut, disconnect or remove equipment at its own expense when requested by a non-profit housing development corporation. This act would also provide for proper public hearing procedures. Corporations
- S-2562 ABORTION INSURANCE** (Roney & Sosnowski) This act repeals two (2) sections of the General Laws concerning insurance contracts which

exclude abortion coverage in health insurance contracts for state and municipal employees. H.E.W.

**S-2588 MUNICIPAL PURCHASING** (Ruggerio & Others) This act would establish various criteria for determining the responsibility of competitive bidders for municipal contracts. Labor

**S-2617 CONTRACTORS' BONDS** (Irons – By Request) This act would hold liable any state, city/town agency which fails to require contractors to file labor and materials bonds. Judiciary

**S-2630 DISTRICT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES** (Roney) This act would authorize cities and towns to create district management authorities for the purpose of providing the services and undertaking the activities to supplement the services provided by municipal government. Corporations

**S-2651 NURSING FACILITIES** (Connors & Others) This act would provide for an automatic increase in funding for nursing facilities to compensate them for the cost of complying with governmental mandates. Finance

**S-2671 LEAD PAINT** (Goodwin & Others) This act provides a statute of limitations in which certain entities may bring a law suit for damages involving lead paint. Judiciary

**S-2682 GOVERNMENTAL TORT LIABILITY** (Igliazzi & Others) This act would allow cities and towns to decide, as the state does, whether or not to indemnify an employee who is the subject of a law suit for an action which may or may not be in the line of duty. Judiciary

**S-2683 PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIER FRANCHISES** (Igliazzi & Others) This act would provide protection of existing businesses in telecommunications and related cable services. Corporations

**S-2684 MOTOR FUEL TAX – LOCAL ROADS** (Ruggerio & Goodwin) This act would increase the motor fuel tax paid to the tax administrator from 28 cents to 29 cents per gallon, and the funds shall be transferred to cities and towns for the purpose of repairing and repaving local roads. Finance

**S-2708      ALTERATION OF ROADWAYS** (Walton & Others) This act allows cities and towns to adopt ordinances and regulations imposing fees on public utilities and contractors who alter roadways. Fees would include charges relative to administrative, engineering and inspection costs. Corporations

**S-2764      PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS – FRANCHISES** (Paiva Weed) This act would enable a city/town to authorize a private party to use and occupy public rights of way. Corporations